

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-39, 44, 53, and 60 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in continuing applications. Claims 40, 52, 54, and 56 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 40-43, 45-52, and 54-59 remain pending.

The Information Disclosure statement filed November 29, 2001 has not been entirely initialed by the Examiner. The Information Disclosure Statement contains a 4-page PTO-1449 of which only pages 3 and 4 were initialed and returned by the Examiner in the Office Action. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the references listed on pages 1 and 2 of the PTO-1449 of the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 29, 2001 and return the initialed PTO-1449 form in the next Office communication.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner objected to claims 44, 45, 56, and 57 for depending from rejected claims. Claims 40 and 52 have been amended to incorporate the objected to claims. Therefore, claims 40-43, 45-52, and 54-59 are allowable.

Claims 16 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for lack of antecedent basis. Claim 16 has been canceled and claim 40 has been amended. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

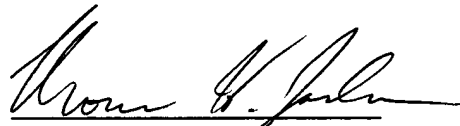
Claims 16-19, 22-32, 35-43, 46-55, and 58-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Connolly (U.S. Patent No. 5,325,419). Claims 16-19, 22-32, 35-39, 53 and 60 were canceled. Claims 40-43, 46-52, 54-55, 58 and 59 have been amended to incorporate

objected to claims and are therefore allowable. The rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 20, 21, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Connolly in view of Alberth (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,332). Claims 20, 21, 33, and 34 were canceled. The rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels, however, that further amendment and/or discussion may be helpful in facilitating prosecution of the case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at the number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,



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